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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

20. (New) A method for issuing notification messages to users of a computer network, the method comprising:
creating a distribution list of a first group of users from a role-to-user assignment and from an application-to-role assignment, wherein each user in the first group has access to information in a business application used in the application-to-role assignment; and
issuing a first notification message to a communication device corresponding to each user in the first group when a current value of a predetermined variable in the business application is in a predetermined relation to a reference value.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
issuing a further notification message to a communication device corresponding to a further user outside the first group of users in the event that during a predetermined time period no user from the first group has confirmed reception of the first notification message.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein reception of the first notification message is confirmed when one or more users from the first group returns a receipt message.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising assigning a unique identification number to the first notification message such that the communication device returns the identification number as part of the receipt message.

24.   (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the further notification message has a description portion to indicate being the further notification.

25.   (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the further user has a supervisory relationship with the first group of users.

26.   (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the first notification message is issued to the communication device such that the communication device visually presents the first notification message.

27.   (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the communication device is a personal computer with electronic mail.

28.   (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the communication device visually presents the first notification message as a hyperlink to a full version of the first notification message.

29.   (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the distribution list is created after detecting that the current value of predetermined variable in the business application is in the predetermined relation to a reference value.

30.   (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the application-to-role assignment includes an alert-type-to-role assignment.

31.   (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving subscription requests to selectively add or remove individual users to or from the distribution list.

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32. (New) A computer-readable medium or propagated signal having embodied thereon a computer program configured to issue notification messages, the medium or signal comprising one or more code segments configured to:

store a list of a first group of users that is derived from a role-to-user assignment and from an application-to-role assignment, wherein each user in the first group has access to information in a business application used in the application-to-role assignment; and

issue a first notification message to a communication device corresponding to each user in the first group when a current value of a predetermined variable in the business application is in a predetermined relation to a reference value.

33. (New) The medium or signal of claim 32, wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

issue a further notification message to a communication device corresponding to a further user outside the first group of users in the event that during a predetermined time period no user from the first group has confirmed reception of the first notification message.

34. (New) The medium or signal of claim 33, wherein reception of the first notification message is confirmed when one or more users from the first group returns a receipt message.

35. (New) The medium or signal of claim 33, wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:

assign a unique identification number to the first notification message such that the communication device returns the identification number as part of the receipt message.

36. (New) The medium or signal of claim 33, wherein the further notification message has a description portion to indicate being the further notification.

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37.　(New) The medium or signal of claim 33, wherein the further user has a supervisory relationship with the first group of users.

38.　(New) The medium or signal of claim 32, wherein the first notification message is issued to the communication device such that the communication device visually presents the first notification message.

39.　(New) The medium or signal of claim 38, wherein the communication device is a personal computer with electronic mail.

40.　(New) The medium or signal of claim 38, wherein the communication device visually presents the first notification message as a hyperlink to a full version of the first notification message.

41.　(New) The medium or signal of claim 32, wherein the distribution list is stored after detecting that the current value of predetermined variable in the business application is in the predetermined relation to a reference value.

42.　(New) The medium or signal of claim 32, wherein the application-to-role assignment includes an alert-type-to-role assignment.

43.　(New) The medium or signal of claim 32, wherein the one or more code segments are further configured to:
selectively add or remove individual users to or from the distribution list based on subscription requests.